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VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

OUDH, CENTRAL INDIA, AND RAJPUTANA, Received up to 24th January, 1882.

POLITICAL.

THE Anjuman-i-Punjab of the 18th January states that for Circulation, some time past no news has been re-Afghan affairs. ceived about Aiyub Khan, and therefore the public was induced to imagine that he would pass the rest of his life in peace with his father-in-law on such support as he might be pleased to grant him.

But information lately received shows that he is again endeavouring to invade Afghanistan. We have repeatedly declared that he will never give up his designs against Afghanistan. As far as we have hitherto had opportunities of judging of the actions of the King of Persia, we have always found him wise and cautious. He wisely refrains from meddling with other people's affairs. Now it remains to be seen whether he adheres to his policy of non-intervention or foolishly espouses the cause of his relative. If he assists Aiyub Khan, there is no doubt that he does so at the instigation of Russia. But we warn him against incurring the displeasure of the British-Government. Russia is fickle and never keeps her word. Sher Ali fell a dupe to her intrigues, and died an exile at Masar i-Shariff

425 copies.

What can the King of Persia expect from an alliance with her? It is believed that the Amir Abdul Rahman Khan is about to pay a visit to India. Probably he wishes to consult the Viceroy as to what policy he should adopt in case Persia should espouse the cause of Aiyub Khan. The matter is really a very important one, and he is wise in seeking advice. But it should be observed that the late Amir Sher Ali Khan was well disposed towards us before his visit to India, but since his return from India his attitude was far from satisfactory. We hope that Abdul Rahman's visit will not effect such a change in his attitude. Moreover, we are afraid that his visit to India may induce his bigoted subjects to regard him as a kafir, as they did Sher Ali on his return from India.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Circulation, 175 copies.

The Bharat Bundhu (Aligarh) of the 13th January states that, as some amendments are about to The imprisonment of en in execution of be made in the Civil Procedure Code. civil court decrees, the Government should avail itself of the opportunity to amend the provisions about the imprisonment of judgment-debtors in execution of civil court decrees. According to the present law, women are liable to imprison. ment in execution of civil court decrees. But it should be observed that the natives are accustomed to keep their women behind the paraah. They would prefer death to an outrage on their sanana. Is it just and equitable to drag a woman, who has never left her house, into public, and to send her to s jail in execution of a decree? Was there no native member. present in the Legislative Council when this law was passed? We are opposed to the admission of natives to a share in the administration, because they positively injure instead of promoting the interests of their countrymen. It is our earnest prayer that the number of native members in the Legislative Council, who have not the courage to freely express their opinions, and say ditto to everything, may not increase. We hope that the Government will draw the attention of the Council to the law in question, and have it amended.

The same paper urges the establishment of agricultural

The establishment of banks for the benefit of cultivators.

agricultural banks.

The same paper says that in his replies to the addresses presented, His Excellency the Vicercy Self-government. during his late tour expressed his intention to extend the principle of self-government. No detailed information on the subject of self-government has yet been vouchsafed to the public. At present the natives have a voice only in the management of municipal affairs; -but even this is merely nominal,—because the native members of municipal committees are generally ignorant men, who have neither the ability nor the courage to express any opinion on any subject. Does the Viceroy wish to increase the powers of members of municipal committees, or to introduce any new scheme of self-government? There is no doubt that the natives will eatisfactorily do any work which the Government will be pleased to impose on them in the direction of self-government. All that will be necessary to secure success is:- First, educated men should be selected for the work. Intellectual ability and not wealth should be the primary consideration in making selections. Secondly, the influence of district officers over the native members should be reduced.

The Vritta Dhard (published in Marathi at Dhar) of the 9th The preparation of the January (received on the 22nd idem) food of prisoners.

says that at present the food for the different classes of prisoners is prepared asparately in jails. But it is rumoured that it has been proposed that the food for all classes of prisoners should be prepared at the same place in future. This is opposed to the religious prejudices of the natives, and therefore the editor hopes that the Government of India will not sanction the proposal.

The Schoo (the Bengali paper of Allahabad) of the 21st.
The Setive Chiefs and January, in an article headed "The the British Government. feedlatory Chiefs and the British Resi-

Circulation, 125 copies.

Circulation.

dents," says that the Native chiefs are mere puppets. They have only a semblance of power, and their positions are not secure. They are always haunted by the fear that the British Government may at any time depose them from their thrones on some pretext. The ex-Gaekwar did not understand the policy of the Government, and the result was that he was dethroned. Some other chiefs have also lost their kingdoms in the same way. The same fate has lately befallen the Raja He has been charged with oppression and of Karauli. The Karauli Resident seems to be a better man incapacity. than the late Baroda Resident. He has not charged the Raja with an attempt to poison him, but has accomplished his object in a simpler way. The Native chiefs are entirely at the mercy of British Residents. As even the people in native states have been convinced of this, they look upon the Residents as their rulers, and do not care much for the chiefs themselves. If any chief passes any strict orders to make his subjects respect his authority, the Resident charges him with tyranny and oppression. When the British administration of justice requires that even an ordinary person should not be condemned before he has been heard, it is difficult to realize why this privilege has been withheld from the unfortunate Native chiefs. There is only one way in which the unwarranted distinction recognised between the Native chiefs and the people in this respect can be accounted for. But we do not think it wise to declare what that way is. But does it not cast a stain on British justice to condemn a Native chief on the mere statements of interested persons, without giving him an opportunity of defending himself from the chargesbrought against him? Is not such a policy calculated to create suspicion and distrust in the minds of all fendatory chiefs? Only the other day every endeavour was made to bring the Maharaja of Kashmir into disrepute, but fortunately the attempt was unsuccessful. It is well known to what dishonour the son of the Raja of Chota Udaipur was subjected by the British Resident. The late Resident of Barods had the ex-Gaehwar dethroned. It does not behove the British Government to rule arbitrarily over us, and to trample on our heads like our late Muhammadan rulers. When any charge is brought against any Native chief, the Government should give him an opportunity of disproving the charge, if he can, before it condemns him.

The Anjuman-i-Panjab of the 18th January, on the Honorary Magistrates at authority of a Ludhiana corresponding that there are two Honorary Magistrates at Ludhiana, but that both of them are Musalmans, and urges that one Hindu Honorary Magistrate should be also appointed there. In the first place, although the Muhammadan Honorary Magistrates perform their duties satisfactorily, still it appears that the Hindus do not like to have their suits decided by them, and take their cases to the ordinary courts of justice. Secondly, the honours and distinctions in the gift of the Government should be bestowed equally on all classes of the community. There are many men among the Hindu community at Ludhiana who are quite fit for the post of Honorary Magistrate.

The Jaunpur correspondent of the Waqdya-i-Alam of the The Superintendent of 16th January complains that Mr. Police, Jaunpur. Young, the Superintendent of Police at Jaunpur, treats his subordinates with great severity. When any police constable commits an offence, a box containing 15 seers of sand is placed on his back, and two guns weighing 5 seers each, are placed on his shoulders, and he is made to walk for three or four hours. Sometimes the constables, undergoing this punishment, fall down on the ground from exhaustion.

The Amode-al-Akhbar, Lucknow, has a long article on the Oudh Taluqdars' Association and tion and hir George Con- Sir George Couper, Bart, in its issue per, Bart.

of the 5th, 19th, and 19th January.

The editor says that it is a matter of deep regret that even the same of the says that it is a matter of deep regret that even the says that it is a matter of deep regret that the says that it is a matter of deep regret that even the says that it is a matter of deep regret that the says that the says

Circulation, 425 copies.

Circulation, 250 copies.

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civilised Government like the British always looks to its own interests, and does not care at all for the people. It has established an association like the Talugdars' Association, amalgamated Oudh with the North-Western Provinces, appointed selfish men to rule over us, allowed cours to entertain suits which ruin both the plaintiffs and defendants. The question is with what object has the Government established the Talugdars' Association. Was it the object of the Government that the talugdars should meet together, slowly cut their throats with their own hands by a blunt knife, and colour the hands of the Government representative in the province, who asks them to make over all they have to the Government, with their own blood? If the Government expected that the expression by the talugdars of their views at the meeting of the Association would enable it to judge whether they were loyal or disloyal, it was mistaken. No taluqdar, even if he is disaffected towards the Government, can be so foolish as to give vent to his disaffection in public. Was it the object of the Government that the Association should amicably settle boundary and other disputes that might arise among the taluquars? But they are generally quite ignorant, and it is impossible that they should be able to settle their quarrels amicably: nor could they, who are unable to manage their own estates properly, be expected to assist the Government with good advice in conducting the administration. There is only one thing in which they have assisted the Lieutenant-Governor, viz., the holding of an exhibition at Lucknew. He has established this exhibition by official pressure as a kind of memorial of him in the province. Moreover, the exhibition has given him an opportunity of bestowing honours on one or two natives. But it serves no useful purpose. Poor talugdars are made to contribute subscriptions, which they can ill afford to pay, to meet the cost of the exhibition. Some days before the exhibition was held they were peremptorily ordered like coolies to bring all the good specimens of products and manufactures which

they had in their estates. The talugdars and the princes of Lucknow have been grieved to the heart at the treatment which they received at the late two darbars held at Lucknow by Sir George Couper. At the first darbar the Maharaja of Balrampur was seated on a chair while all other persons were made to sit on the floor. Similarly, at the second darbar, his chair was placed on a stand, and the chairs of other taluquars and princes were placed on the floor. They were never subjected to such dishonour in the time of any former Chief Commissioner. All classes of the community in Oudh, with the exception of one or two talugdars, who are his great favourites, and on whom he has conferred many favours, are dissatisfied with his administration. The Maharaja of Balrampur has been appointed President of the Association in question. But we ask the Association—is he fit for that post? He has received no education. and cannot clearly express his sentiments even in his own language. When the Local Government wishes to adopt any measure affecting the interests of the talingdars, it asks for the opinion of the Association. The Maharaja of Balrampur, who specially enjoys the good graces of the Lieutenant-Governor. at once approves of the measure, because he knows full well that the measure will not practically affect him. Then the other taluquars also, notens votens, express their approval, because they are afraid that otherwise they will incur the displeasure of the Lieutenant-Governor. Ruja Amir Hasan Khan, Taluquar of Mahmudabad, was formerly Vice-President of the Association. Both the Association and the local Government attached great weight to his opinion. But when he oppose the amalgamation of Oudh with the North-Western Provinces. he incurred the displeasure of the local Government, and probably at its instigation the Association struck off his name from the list of members. Now, we ask Sin George Couper whether he was appointed by Her Majesty ruler over the province in order that he might oceate extreme die in the minds of the geople by his mischierous act

fixed very strict conditions about the payment of land revenue. He has conferred new rights on tenants, which has made them impertinent and insolent towards their landlords, like the Irish peasants. He returns home with his hands stained with the destruction of our hopes and aspirations. The farewell addresses presented to him at Lucknow do not represent the real feelings of the people towards him. Outh cannot prosper until it is again separated from the North-Western Provinces. The Taluqdars' Association, as at present conducted, is worse than useless, and should be abolished.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Circulation, 275 copies.

The Sáhas (Allahabad) of the 21st January praises the The Magh Fair, Allaha- Railway authorities at the Allahabad bad. station for the good arrangements made by them for the convenience of the pilgrims. Six booking-offices have been opened, and some Railway officer or District Police officer generally stands near each bookingoffice at the time of the distribution of tickets to see that no illegal exaction is made from the pilgrims. In order to take the pilgrims to their homes as soon as possible, the trains which usually carried goods are made to carry passengers. The editor then makes the following remarks about the management of the Magh Fair :- (1) There was a scarcity of wheat-flour at the fair, and the pilgrims had to eat jwar and bajra flour. The District Traffic Manager sent for a large quantity of wheat-flour from Cawnpore and Mirzapur, and for this we are very thankful to him. (2) A tax was unjustly levied even from those men who went in their own boats by the Jumna to the confluence to bathe. (3) The fair was well arranged. There were narrow lanes at short distances by which the people could easily move in all directions. The post-office, the hospital, and the court were placed at suitable places. The arrangement reflects credit on the city kotwal. (4) The people had to purchase everything they required—such as fuel, bamboos, earthen pots, &c., at

the fair at the shopkeepers' own rates. If any man took anything from the city to the fair for his use, a duty was levied on it. (5) A large number of sweepers should have been sent for from other places for the fair. The fanes in the town have been neglected, and sholers has broken out. " (6) The roads leading to the fair at the confluence of the rivers from the town were not watered, and therefore the people were put to great inconvenience from the dust. When the Government levied so many taxes at the fair, it should have made every arrangement for the convenience of the pilgrims. (7) Mr. Neale and Mr. Benson have taken great pains in the proper management of the fair. They should also exercise a strict supervision over the income and expen-(8) It would be a good thing if honorary magistrates and municipal commissioners assisted Government officers in the management of the fair.

The Askagt-al-Sunnet (Lahore) for August and September, The Ahl-i-Hadis sect of 1881 (published in January, 1882); has a long article on the Ahl-i-Hadis Musalmans. The editor, Maulvi Abusaid Muhammad sect of Musalmans. Husain, is himself a member of this sect. The editor says that the opponents of the Abl-i-Hadis call the latter Wahabis through enmity, and have led the European officers to believe that the Wahabis are rebels. But as the Ahl-i-Hadis consider opposition to the British Government, which protects their lives and property, and has granted them full religious liberty. as unlawful according to the tenets of their religion, they look upon the term Wahabi, when applied to them, as a misnomer and as a term of abuse. The editor quotes large extracts from the books of Nawab Sadiq Hasan Khan of Bhupal, who belongs to the Ahl-i-Hadis sect, on the subject in question in support of his remarks.

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